

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW**

**LOUISIANA BOARD
OF ETHICS**

IN THE MATTER OF

RALPH JOHNSON

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

DOCKET NO.

AGENCY TRACKING NO. 2011-1582

CHARGES

The Louisiana Board of Ethics voted on November 15, 2012 to and does hereby file the following charges:

1.

On June 10, 2010, Ralph Johnson began his service as an appointed member of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the Parish of East Baton Rouge.

2.

Ralph Johnson also serves as the vice president/executive director of the Melrose East Community Association (MECA). Mr. Johnson received monthly compensation from MECA.

3.

In the Summer of 2011, Nada 2, Inc., d/b/a the "Donmoor Food Market" of 1079 N. Donmoor Ave., sought a *Class B* Beer and Liquor license from the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the Parish of Baton Rouge.

4.

MECA opposed the Donmoor Food Market receiving a *Class B* Beer and Liquor license, and as such, an opposition hearing was held before the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the Parish of Baton Rouge on July 14, 2011.

5.

At the July 14, 2011 opposition hearing, Board Member Johnson recused himself from participating in the hearing. The result of this opposition was deferred to a later meeting of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the Parish of Baton Rouge.

6.

Sometime after the July 14, 2011 meeting, and before the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the Parish of Baton Rouge had formally ruled on the opposition, the owner of the "Donmoor Food Market" entered into an agreement with MECA whereby MECA would withdraw its opposition to the "Donmoor Food Market" receiving a Class B liquor license in exchange a membership fee to the association of \$1,500 and for monthly contributions to the association of \$150 a month.

7.

On October 13, 2011, the Donmoor Food Market's application for a permanent business license was deferred on motion of Ralph Johnson. Mr. Johnson sought a two week delay because the applicant and MECA had reached a "good faith" agreement. Mr. Johnson stated that MECA must ratify the agreement on next Monday and then he would drop the opposition to granting the Donmoor Food Market the *Class B* liquor license.

8.

On November 17, 2011 the Donmoor Food Market was granted a permanent *Class B* license.

9.

La. R.S. 42:1112B(3) provides that no public servant shall participate in a transaction involving the governmental entity in which, to his actual knowledge, any person of which he is an officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee, has a substantial economic interest.

10.

Based on the foregoing facts, Ralph Johnson, violated La. R.S. 42:1112B(3) by participating in a transaction under the supervision and jurisdiction of his agency, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the Parish of Baton Rouge, in which MECA had a substantial economic interest.

11.

La. R.S. 42:1113B provides that no appointed member of any board or commission, member of his immediate family, or legal entity in which he has a substantial economic interest shall bid on or enter into or be in any way interested in any contract, subcontract, or other transaction which is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the agency of such appointed member.

12.

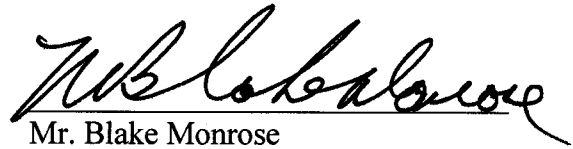
Based on the foregoing facts, Ralph Johnson, violated La. R.S. 42:1113B based upon his representations to the Board, on behalf of MECA, which was an entity interested in a transaction under the supervision and jurisdiction of Mr. Johnson's agency, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the Parish of Baton Rouge.

13.

In accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141C (3)(b)(iv), the Board designates, Michael Dupree and Jennifer Land as the Board's trial attorneys in this matter.

WHEREFORE, the Louisiana Board of Ethics requests that the Ethics Adjudicatory Board (a) conduct a hearing on the foregoing charges; (b) determine that Ralph Johnson violated La. R.S. 42:1112B(3) and La. R.S. 42:1113B, with respect to the foregoing counts; and (c) assess an appropriate penalty in accordance with the recommendation of the Louisiana Board of Ethics to be submitted at the hearing.

[SIGNATURE AND SERVICE INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE]



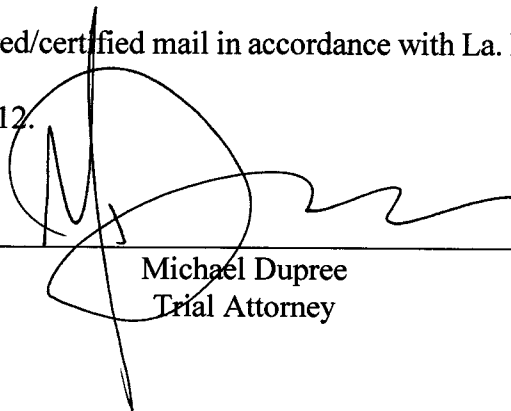
Mr. Blake Monroe
Chairman, Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
Telephone: (225) 219-5600
Facsimile: (225) 381-7271

SERVICE INFORMATION:

Ralph Johnson
P.O. Box 66933
Baton Rouge, LA 70896

CERTIFICATE:

I hereby certify that a copy of this document has been forwarded to the Respondent or his
Counsel of Record by registered/certified mail in accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141E(1)(a), on this
16 day of November, 2012.



Michael Dupree
Trial Attorney